

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A light emitting device which comprises a red phosphor and a semiconductor light emitting element,

wherein

the semiconductor light emitting element emits light in the region from near-ultraviolet light to visible light, and

the red phosphor has comprises Eu^{3+} as a luminescent center ion, and consists of a crystal state wherein

a minimum emission intensity of the red phosphor within ~~the~~ an excitation wavelength range of 380 nm to 410 nm in an excitation spectrum is 65% or more of a maximum emission intensity, and

~~wherein the red phosphor has an emission efficiency at 400 nm of 20% or more, and~~

~~wherein the semiconductor light emitting element emits light in the region from near-ultraviolet light to visible light.~~

Claim 2 (Currently amended): The light emitting device according to claim 1, wherein ~~said phosphor is a phosphor having~~ a maximum emission intensity of the red phosphor is 3 times or more the intensity of a peak ~~around~~ at approximately 465 nm which is in an excitation band of the f-f transition of Eu^{3+} , in the excitation spectrum.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The light emitting device according to claim 1, wherein said red phosphor is [[a]] fluorescent complex having Eu^{3+} .

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The light emitting device according to claim 3, wherein said red phosphor is a fluorescent complex containing comprises at least one ligand comprising an aromatic group in a ligand.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The light emitting device according to claim 1, wherein said red phosphor is in a solid state.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): The light emitting device according to claim 1, which further comprises a blue phosphor and a green phosphor, wherein the light emitting device emits white light.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): The light emitting device according to claim 1, wherein said semiconductor light emitting element is a laser diode or light emitting diode, which emits light having a peak wavelength ranging from 370 nm to 470 nm.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): The light emitting device according to claim 1, wherein comprising an ultraviolet shielding treatment is performed on the outside of a layer comprising the red phosphor so that said red phosphor is not irradiated with ultraviolet rays of 350 nm or less.

Claim 9 (Previously presented): A lighting system which comprises the light emitting device according to claim 1.

Claim 10 (Previously presented): An image display unit which comprises the light emitting device according to claim 1.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Currently amended) The light emitting device according to claim [[1]] 6, ~~which further comprises a~~ wherein the blue phosphor is an inorganic phosphor together with the phosphor selected from the group consisting of ZnS:Ag, Sr₅(PO₄)₃Cl:Eu and BaMgAl₁₀O₁₇:Eu.

Claim 13 (Previously presented) The light emitting device according to claim 1, wherein the semiconductor light emitting element is a GaN-based emitting diode.

Claim 14 (Currently amended) A red phosphor ~~which has comprising~~ Eu³⁺ as a luminescent center ion, consisting of a crystal state wherein a minimum emission intensity of the red phosphor within the excitation wavelength range of 380 nm to 410 nm in an excitation spectrum is 65% or more of a maximum emission intensity, and the red phosphor has an emission efficiency at 400 nm of 20% or more.

Claim 15 (Currently amended) A resin composition comprising the red phosphor according to claim 14.

Claim 16 (New): The light emitting device according to claim 6, wherein the green phosphor is an inorganic phosphor selected from the group consisting of ZnS:Cu, ZnS:CuAl, BaMgAl₁₀O₁₇:Eu and Mn.

Claim 17 (New): A red phosphor comprising Eu⁺³ as a luminescent center ion, consisting of a crystal state, wherein

a minimum emission intensity of the red phosphor within an excitation wavelength range of 380 to 410 nm in an excitation spectrum is 65% or more of a maximum emission intensity,

an excitation wavelength showing a maximum emission intensity in an excitation spectrum is from 388 nm or more,

the red phosphor has an emission efficiency at 400 nm of 37.4% or more, and

the red phosphor is to be used as fine particles in the crystal state which are long in excitation life.

Claim 18 (New): The red phosphor according to claim 17, wherein a maximum emission intensity of the red phosphor is 3 times or more the intensity of a peak at approximately 465nm which is an excitation band of the f-f transition of Eu^{+3} , in the excitation.